AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 115, line 14, and continuing to page 116, as follows:

Subsequently, in order to cause first growth, silver ~~bromoidode~~ bromoiodide fine grains (number-average equivalent circle diameter: 0.025 μm; coefficient of variation in equivalent circle diameter: 11%; proportion of twin grains: 1%) which had been prepared by charging 700.7 ml of an aqueous solution of $AgNO_3$ (10.67 g) and an aqueous solution containing KI and a low molecular oxidized gelatin having a molecular weight of 15,000 into a device shown in Fig. 5 comprising a mixer free of rotary shaft piercing the wall of a closed agitation tank which allows impellor blades connected by a magnetic coupling to rotate in opposite directions and a piping which can be temperature-controlled to cause continuous ripening were continuously charged into a reaction vessel. The preparation of the fine grains was carried out by ripening the fine grains prepared in the mixer of the device in the temperature-controlled piping in the device. The unripened fine grains had a number-average equivalent circle diameter of 0.011 μm, coefficient of variation in equivalent circle diameter of 35% and a percent twinning of 1%. The ripening of the grains was conducted at 50°C for 5 minutes. During this procedure, the pBr value in the reaction vessel was kept at 2.7. Thereafter, the solution was bailed out

of the reaction vessel to keep the liquid volume at 600 ml. Subsequently, in order to cause second growth, silver ~~bromoidode~~ bromoiodide fine grains (number-average equivalent circle diameter: 0.027 μm; coefficient of variation in equivalent circle diameter: 11%; proportion of twin grains: 1%) which had been prepared by charging 1,179.4 ml of an aqueous solution of $AgNO_3$ (39.8 g) and an aqueous solution containing KBr, KI and a low molecular oxidized gelatin having a molecular weight of 15,000 into the fine grain preparation device similar to that of first growth were continuously charged into the reaction vessel. During the preparation of the fine grains, the unripened fine grains had a number-average equivalent circle diameter of 0.012 μm, coefficient of variation in equivalent circle diameter of 36% and a percent twinning of 1%. The ripening of the grains was conducted at 50°C for 5 minutes. During this procedure, the pBr value in the reaction vessel was kept at 2.7. Thereafter, an epitaxial portion was formed by the method described in JP-A-2001-235821. At this time, sensitizing dyes I, II and III were added before the formation of the epitaxial portion. During the epitaxial formation, potassium hexacyanorutheniumate (II) was added such that the chemically-sensitized emulsion attained maximum 1/100 sensitivity.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 120, line 11, and continuing to page 121-122, as follows:

Subsequently, in order to cause first growth, silver ~~bromoidode~~ bromoiodide fine grains (number-average equivalent circle diameter: 0.025 μm; coefficient of variation in equivalent circle diameter: 11%; proportion of twin grains: 1%) which had been prepared by charging 700.7 ml of an aqueous solution of $AgNO_3$ (10.67 g) and an aqueous solution containing KBr, KI and a low molecular oxidized gelatin having a molecular weight of 15,000 into a device comprising a mixer free of rotary shaft piercing the wall of a closed agitation tank which allows impellor blades connected by a magnetic coupling to rotate in opposite directions and a piping which can be temperature-controlled to cause continuous ripening were continuously charged into a reaction vessel. The preparation of the fine grains was carried out by ripening the fine grains prepared in the mixer of the device in the temperature-controlled piping in the device. The unripened fine grains had a number-average equivalent circle diameter of 0.011 μm, coefficient of variation in equivalent circle diameter of 35% and a percent twinning of 1%. The ripening of the grains was conducted at 50°C for 5 minutes. During this procedure, the pBr value in the reaction vessel was kept at 2.7. Subsequently, in order to cause second growth, silver ~~bromoidode~~ bromoiodide fine grains (number-average equivalent circle diameter: 0.027 μm; coefficient of variation in equivalent circle diameter: 11%; proportion of twin grains: 2%) which had been prepared by charging 1,525.3 ml of an

aqueous solution of $AgNO_3$ (209.2 g) and an aqueous solution containing KBr, KI and a low molecular oxidized gelatin having a molecular weight of 15,000 into the fine grain preparing device similar to that of first growth were continuously charged into the reaction vessel. During the preparation of the fine grains, the unripened fine grains had a number-average equivalent circle diameter of 0.013 μm, coefficient of variation in equivalent circle diameter of 35% and a percent twinning of 2%. The ripening of the grains was conducted at 50°C for 5 minutes. During this procedure, the pBr value in the reaction vessel was kept at 2.7. The second growth was accompanied by ultrafiltration. As the ultrafiltration module for the ultrafiltration device there was used Nove Series of flat membrane centramate made of pole (molecular weight cut off: 30,000). During this procedure, the reflux flow rate was 1 l/min. The feed pressure was 0.09 MPa. The reflux pressure was 0.05 MPa. The osmotic pressure was 0 MPa. At the end of the second growth, the volume of the solution was 3,000 ml. Thereafter, an epitaxial portion was formed by the method described in JP-A-2001-235821. Before the formation of epitaxial portion, sensitizing dyes I, II and III were added. During the epitaxial formation, potassium hexacyanoruthenium(II) was added such that the chemically-sensitized emulsion attained maximum 1/100 sensitivity. Thereafter, the emulsion was subjected to rinsing and chemical sensitization in the same manner as Emulsion a. The emulsion b thus prepared comprised

tabular grains having coefficient of variation in equivalent circle diameter of 24%, a number-average equivalent circle diameter of 5.57 μm and a number-average thickness of 0.044 μm.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 122, line 20, and continuing to page 123, as follows:

In order to cause second growth, silver ~~bromoidode~~ bromoiodide fine grains (number-average equivalent circle diameter: 0.013 μm; coefficient of variation in equivalent circle diameter: 35%; proportion of twin grains: 2%) which had been prepared by charging 1,179.4 ml of an aqueous solution of $AgNO_3$ (39.8 g) and an aqueous solution containing KBr, KI and a low molecular oxidized gelatin having a molecular weight of 15,000 into a device shown in Fig. 2 comprising a mixer free of rotary shaft piercing the wall of a closed agitation tank which allows impellor blades connected by a magnetic coupling to rotate in opposite directions were charged into a reaction vessel. During this procedure, the pBr value in the reaction vessel was kept at 2.7. Thereafter, the emulsion preparation procedure of Emulsion a was followed. The emulsion c thus prepared comprised tabular grains having coefficient of variation in equivalent circle diameter of 26%, a number-average equivalent circle diameter of 4.73 μm and a number-average thickness of 0.061 μm.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 130, line 20, as follows:

(Rinsing solution) (unit: g (common to running ~~solutionand~~ solution and replenisher))